(c) the manner in which the loan amount would be utilized by the Corporation; and

(d) to what extent power position would improve in various parts of the country, as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has signed agreements for following two loans on 28.03.2008:

(i) The World Bank — US$ 600 million;

(ii) Asian Development Bank — US$ 400 million.

(c) The loan amount will be utilized for financing a basket of PGCIL's transmission projects during Eleventh plan, to strengthen transmission system and also enhance inter-regional power transmission capacity in the country. The list of projects is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(d) The PGCIL develops inter-state & inter-regional transmission system for transfer of power from various central sector generation projects and other projects involving inter-state power transfer to different beneficiaries across the country.

The PGCIL has formulated a large number of transmission schemes as a part of transmission system of various Central Sector Generation Projects/Ultra Mega Power Projects as well as Grid Strengthening Schemes to enhance inter-regional power transfer capacity from about 17,000 MW at present to more than 37,000 MW by 2012.

Statement

Details of Projects for which the loan amount will be utilized

A. PROJECTS COVERED UNDER US$ 600 MILLION LOAN (PSDP-IV) FROM THE WORLD BANK

(1) Transmission System associated with Barh Project

(2) North-West Transmission Corridor Strengthening Scheme

(3) East-West Transmission Corridor Strengthening Scheme

(4) Western Region System Strengthening Scheme-II

(5) Eastern Region System Strengthening Scheme-I

B. PROJECTS COVERED UNDER US$ 400 MILLION LOAN (ADB-IV) FROM ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

(1) Transmission System associated with Tehri Pumped Storage Plant

(2) North Eastern—Northern/Western Region Interconnector-I Project.

Coal/Gas shortage in power projects

2892. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several power projects in the country are facing coal/gas shortages;

(b) whether due to coal and gas shortage, the production capacity of such power plants has come down; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortages of gas and coal for power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The coal supply position to Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) in the country is not comfortable. As on 14th April, 2008, out of 77 coal based thermal power stations of power utilities, 24 power stations are critical having a coal stock of less than 7 days. The All India coal stock is also low at 10.841 Million Tonne (MT) against a normative requirement of 22 Million Tonne.

During 2007-08, the actual Plant Load Factor (PLF) of coal based TPSs in the country was 78.91% against a target of 77.78%. However, according to NTPC, there was loss in PLF of 4 of their power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Vindhyachal to the tune of 4.66%, 0.65%, 0.08% and 0.33% respectively. Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to the power stations is being done at all levels, for optimizing coal supply to power stations from various sources.

The production and supply of gas in the country is also not keeping pace with the growing demand of gas in the country, including for that of power sector. The average gas supply during 2007-08 (April-February 2008) has been 37.06 MMSCMD, against the requirement of 65.67 MMSCMD to operate the stations at 90% PLF.

(c) Following steps have been taken/are being taken by the Government to meet the shortages of gas and coal for power stations:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to thermal power stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

(ii) Ministry of Coal is being insisted upon to enhance the production of coal in the country.

(iii) Import of coal to meet the shortfall in domestic availability of coal.

(iv) Arranging spot Regasified Liquified Natural Gas (RLNG).

(v) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/ utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

Bringing the Power Sector to International level

†2893. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present shortage of power in the country can be solved by bringing the present power distribution and transmission losses and the quantum of power generation (Plant Load Factor) of power generating projects at international level;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the quantum of availability of additional power to be achieved in the country as a result of bringing the level of both the above power sectors at international level?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.